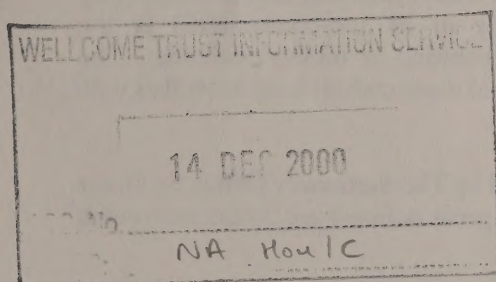


HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 1999–2000

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Second Special Report

**JOINT WORKING WITH THE
LORDS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE**

*Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed
15 November 2000*

LONDON: THE STATIONERY OFFICE
£1.45

The Science and Technology Committee

The Science and Technology Committee is appointed to examine on behalf of the House of Commons the expenditure, administration and policy of the Office of Science and Technology (and any associated public bodies). Its constitution and powers are set out in House of Commons Standing Order No. 152.

The Committee has a maximum of eleven members, of whom the quorum for any formal proceedings is three. The members of the Committee are appointed by the House and unless discharged remain on the Committee until the next dissolution of Parliament. The present membership of the Committee is as follows:¹

Dr Michael Clark MP (*Conservative, Rayleigh*)²
 Sir Paddy Ashdown MP (*Liberal Democrat, Yeovil*)⁶
 Mrs Claire Curtis-Thomas MP (*Labour, Crosby*)²
 Dr Ian Gibson MP (*Labour, Norwich North*)²
 Dr Brian Iddon MP (*Labour, Bolton South East*)⁵
 Mr Robert Jackson MP (*Conservative, Wantage*)³
 Dr Lynne Jones MP (*Labour, Birmingham Selly Oak*)²
 Dr Ashok Kumar MP (*Labour, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*)²
 Mr Ian Taylor MP (*Conservative, Esher and Walton*)⁴
 Dr Desmond Turner MP (*Labour, Brighton Kemptown*)²
 Dr Alan W Williams MP (*Labour, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*)²

On 30 July 1997, the Committee elected Dr Michael Clark as its Chairman.

The Committee has the power to require the submission of written evidence and documents, to examine witnesses, and to make Reports to the House.

The Committee may meet at any time (except when Parliament is prorogued or dissolved) and at any place within the United Kingdom. The Committee may meet concurrently with other committees or sub-committees established under Standing Order No. 152 for the purposes of deliberating, taking evidence or considering draft reports. The Committee may meet concurrently with the House's European Scrutiny Committee (or any of its sub-committees) or the Environmental Audit Committee for the purposes of deliberating or taking evidence. The Committee may exchange documents and evidence with any of these committees, as well as with the House's Public Accounts and Deregulation Committees.

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/s&thome.htm

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Science and Technology Committee, Committee Office, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general inquiries is: 020 7219 2794; the Committee's e-mail address is: scitechcom@parliament.uk

¹ Mrs Caroline Spelman MP (*Con, Meriden*) was appointed on 14 July 1997 and discharged on 22 June 1998. Mr David Atkinson MP (*Con, Bournemouth*) was appointed on 14 July 1997 and discharged on 30 November 1998.

Mrs Jacqui Lait MP (*Con, Beckenham*) was appointed on 22 June 1998 and discharged on 5 July 1999.

Mr Nigel Beard MP (*Lab, Bexleyheath and Crayford*) was appointed on 14 July 1997 and discharged on 20 March 2000.

Mr Nigel Jones (*Lib Dem, Cheltenham*) was appointed on 14 July 1997 and discharged on 15 May 2000.

² Appointed on 14 July 1997.

³ Appointed on 5 July 1999.

⁴ Appointed on 30 November 1998.

⁵ Appointed on 20 March 2000.

⁶ Appointed on 15 May 2000.



SECOND SPECIAL REPORT

The Science and Technology Committee has agreed to the following Special Report:—

JOINT WORKING WITH THE LORDS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

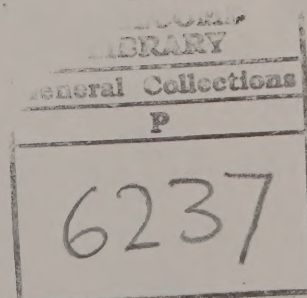
1. There are Committees on Science and Technology in both Houses of Parliament. We have met together informally, but Standing Order No. 152 – which empowers us to exchange evidence and to meet concurrently with other Commons committees – gives us no power to meet formally with a committee appointed by the Lords. In contrast, the Lords Committee is not so restricted: under House of Lords Standing Order No. 67, Lords committees are empowered to meet with Commons committees appointed to examine a similar matter.

2. It would assist us to have the power to meet, from time to time, jointly with our counterparts in the Lords. It might be appropriate, for example, for the two Committees to take evidence from Ministers jointly on Government policy or expenditure plans. We suggest that this would be for the convenience of Ministers, as much as the two Committees.

3. We note that the Government, in its Reply to the Liaison Committee's Report on Shifting the Balance, acknowledges that Commons committees could usefully be permitted to exchange papers and meet jointly without restriction and to exchange papers and meet committees in the House of Lords.¹ The Parliamentary Secretary at the Privy Council Office has assured the House that the Government is willing to facilitate joint working.² We welcome the Government's commitment to facilitating joint working with the Lords and ask the Leader of the House to bring forward the necessary Standing Order changes as soon as possible.

¹ Cm 4737, paragraph 50.

² Official Report, 9 November 2000, col 539.



Distributed by The Stationery Office Limited

and available from:

The Stationery Office

(Mail, telephone and fax orders only)

PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN

General enquiries 0870 600 5522

Order through the Parliamentary Hotline *Lo-call* 0845 7 023474

Fax orders 0870 600 5533

Email book.orders@theso.co.uk

Internet <http://www.ukstate.com>

The Stationery Office Bookshops

123 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PQ

020 7242 6393 Fax 020 7242 6394

68-69 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AD

0121 236 9696 Fax 0121 236 9699

33 Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ

0117 9264306 Fax 0117 9294515

9-21 Princess Street, Manchester M60 8AS

0161 834 7201 Fax 0161 833 0634

16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD

028 9023 8451 Fax 028 9023 5401

The Stationery Office Oriel Bookshop

18-19 High Street, Cardiff CF1 2BZ

029 2039 5548 Fax 029 2038 4347

71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ

0870 606 5566 Fax 0870 606 5588

The Parliamentary Bookshop

12 Bridge Street, Parliament Square

London SW1A 2JX

Telephone orders 020 7219 3890

General enquiries 020 7219 3890

Fax orders 020 7219 3866

Accredited Agents

(See Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Commons 2000

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Copyright Unit,

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ

- Fax 01603 723000

ISBN 0-10-269300-5



9 780102 693003